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Copy No. 50

CIA 36144

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IAC-D-13/1

13 March 1951

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEYS

1. On 8 February the IAC decided to postpone consideration of the recommended increase in the rate of production for the NIS program until certain matters could be investigated (IAC-M-19).

2. The conclusions of these investigations are presented herewith for information in connection with further consideration of the recommendations of the NIS Committee (IAC-D-13).

3. Attached are:

TAB A. A memorandum from the Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff - setting forth a revised priority list.

TAB B. The findings of the NIS Committee with regard to:

(1) Estimated completion dates for the NIS on the revised priority list.

(2) The possibility of omitting portions from the standard NIS.

TAB C. The findings of CIA with regard to:

(1) CIA assistance to the military on recruitment.

(2) Contracting NIS sections to private institutions.

(3) Training additional personnel.

4. The question for decision remains whether or not to authorize an increase in the rate of production of NIS from 8 to 15 per year. JCS review completed

Secretary

Intelligence Advisory Committee

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	003 12284	REGISTRY
SOURCE OIC		CIA CONTROL NO. 36144
DOC. NO. IAC-D-13/1		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED
DOC. DATE 13 Mar 51		LOGGED BY
COPY NO. 50		lmb
NUMBER OF PAGES 7		
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS	None	

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TAB A

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13 March 1951

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.

JOINT INTELLIGENCE GROUP

DDIM-23-51
21 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Subject: Priority List and Production Rate for National
Intelligence Surveys

References: a. DDM-236, dated 20 March 1950
b. IAC-M-19, dated 8 February 1951

1. The "Priority List of N.I.S. Areas for use of C.I.A. in Preparation of Basic Intelligence Studies," dated 15 March 1950, has been reviewed by an Ad Hoc Committee composed of representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Strategic Plans Group (JSPG), Joint Logistics Plans Group (JLPG), Joint Intelligence Group (JIG), and the State Department. All agencies have concurred in the recommended changes.

2. The Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff, recommends that:

a. The present HIGH PRIORITY GROUP I with certain additional areas be placed in a new group to be accorded HIGHEST PRIORITY. Also that the new HIGHEST PRIORITY GROUP be further sub-divided into priority groupings as follows:

HIGHEST PRIORITY

a. China-Manchuria
Indo-China
Yugoslavia
Greece
Turkey
Iran
U.S.S.R.

b. Norway
Sweden
Denmark
Thailand
India
Pakistan
Burma
Malaya (British
Indonesia)
Finland
Albania

c. East Germany
Czechoslovakia
Hungary
Austria
Poland
Bulgaria
Rumania

JCS review completed

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b. The capabilities for the production of surveys in the HIGHEST PRIORITY GROUP be increased sufficiently to insure a much greater production rate.

c. Studies currently in progress be continued if it is determined that personnel employed on these studies can be utilized on them without detriment to the preparation of studies of areas recommended for inclusion in the HIGHEST PRIORITY GROUP.

d. The Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff, re-examine the N.I.S. Priority List semi-annually with a view to determining if changes should be made in the List.

/s/ V. E. Megee

V. E. MEGEE
Brigadier General, USMC
Deputy Director for Intelligence
The Joint Staff

cc: Spec. Asst, Intel.(State)
A.C. of S., G-2, U.S. Army
DNI
D/I, USAF

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NIS COMMITTEE FINDINGS

1. The following questions were asked the NIS Committee:

a. At the presently authorized T/O of the contributing agencies, which is based on the production of the equivalent of 8 NIS a year, when will the NIS be completed on the 24 Highest Priority Areas contained in reference memorandum?

b. Assuming the rate of production proposed by the NIS Committee in its Special Report of 16 February 1951, when will the NIS be completed on the 24 Highest Priority Areas contained in reference memorandum?

c. What portions of the NIS outline do the IAC Agencies consider could be omitted with a view to reducing the production load?

Completion Dates

2. The Committee feels that, while a certain amount of production on the new Highest Priority Areas is already being accomplished, it will require an appreciable length of time before maximum effort can be directed to these new Highest Priority Areas. In many instances, area specialists will have to be recruited. In other instances, current production will have to be completed before starting work on some sections of the Highest Priority Areas in order that the large amount of production work already accomplished will not be wasted. In other words, it takes time to realign NIS production to new priority objectives. Moreover, the existing staffs in the contributing agencies include area specialists concerned with other high priority areas who should continue NIS production in the interests of realizing the maximum production capabilities of these agencies. There is no assurance, either, that some of these other high priority areas may not be raised in priority at some later date.

3. Taking into account the above factors, and based on the assumption that adequate staffs can be recruited within a reasonable time, the NIS Committee considers that the NIS on the Highest Priority Areas can be completed with the presently

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authorized T/O by 30 June 1953. The NIS Committee further considers that, while the NIS production rate proposed by the Committee in its Special Report of 16 February 1951 will be capable of a much greater "across-the-board" production of the 60 High Priority Areas than with the presently authorized T/O, the completion of the NIS on the new 24 Highest Priority Areas will be accomplished with the proposed larger staffs about six months earlier, or 30 December 1952.

Portions That Could Be Omitted

4. The NIS Committee members stated that their agencies did not consider that any substantial reduction in the NIS outline should be made. The Air Force is eliminating certain Order of Battle data in Section 83, Chapter VIII (Armed Forces), but since this information is maintained by the Directorate of Intelligence as a standing requirement, its exclusion from the NIS will not appreciably reduce the amount of effort necessary to produce this NIS section. The NIS Committee has kept NIS requirements under continuing revision since the inception of the NIS Program, and the Committee considers that any major reduction in the present requirements would be prejudicial to the NIS Program.



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CIA FINDINGS

1. CIA was requested to consider the following questions relating to the NIS program:

- a. How can CIA be of assistance to the military services in their recruitment for NIS positions?
- b. Could sections of the NIS be prepared under contract by Universities or private research groups?
- c. Could training programs be instituted to provide more analysts with the special kinds of competence required for NIS work?

Recruitment Assistance

2. The CIA personnel office is in touch with the Army NIS people and will endeavor to render such assistance as they can. Upon preliminary examination CIA believes it can be most helpful by making available the services of CIA's recruiting teams and by drawing on extensive CIA application files. This can best be done by getting the Army's specific qualification requirements. Although the matter is still under study, it does not now appear that CIA can be of much assistance with regard to the civil service aspects of the problem or financial support.

Contract Research

3. Arrangements of this kind have been tried in the past with somewhat unsatisfactory results. There is a tendency for academic experts to reflect in their contributions special points of view which are not in keeping with the purely objective and factual tone required in the Surveys. An understanding of the precise specifications, requirements, and editorial character of the NIS can be acquired only by a contact between the writer and the editorial group closer than that which is possible when the work is done in a distant city by people not familiar with the program. Finally, in many cases a good deal of classified material must be used in the preparation of the Surveys which cannot easily be made available to private groups. The possibilities of having completed sections ready for publication farmed out on contract do not, therefore, look promising.

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4. On the other hand, a real saving in the time and effort needed for final preparation in Washington may be possible by having done at Universities background studies which assemble some of the basic material and which can then be edited and blended with classified data by the Washington agencies. The extent to which this can be done depends upon the availability in private institutions of qualified analysts and information relating to the high priority areas. The External Research Staff maintained jointly by the State Department and the CIA is currently conducting an inventory of the research facilities of 90 leading colleges and universities throughout the United States. When this survey has been completed it will be matched with the list of NIS sections still to be done on the high priority areas to determine the specific possibilities of contract research. It is believed, however, on the basis of a preliminary comparison of the sections to be done and the probable research facilities available that only a few contracts of this kind will turn out to be feasible or desirable.

Training

5. The problem of training analysts for NIS work is inseparable from the broader problem of training people capable of doing competent research on various areas of the world. The principal requirements for NIS analysts are a sound grounding in one or more of the major disciplines (e.g. economics, political science, history, military science, etc.) and some academic study in the language, institutions, and characteristics of an area of the world. No short program of special instruction can supply these qualifications, which can be furnished only by appropriate academic training. Such special skills as are peculiar to NIS production are best acquired by on-the-job training in the NIS program itself.

6. Any increase in the number of area specialists being turned out by the colleges and universities, and any improvement in methods of drawing such people into intelligence work will benefit the NIS program. The problem of ways of encouraging the universities to expand their area programs is one which CIA is considering jointly with the State Department.

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